

question, the members of one group being extreme in their support of it, others being just as extreme in their opposition to it, and still a third group taking a more moderate ground, the editor-in-chief being among the last.

Our correspondence department is open to a free expression of opinion, but it must be understood that the JOURNAL's policy, editorially, must of necessity remain neutral.

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#### WORK FOR ORGANIZATIONS

BEFORE another month our affiliated organizations will have outlined their active work for the winter. October will see state, county, and alumnae associations coming into line with programs of greater or less value according to the preparation of those trusted with the executive guidance of the societies.

There has never been a time when the nursing field has seemed more quiet, a dangerous condition if vigilance is lessened and indifference is allowed to take the place of watchfulness and enthusiasm. But lack of a broader public activity should be turned to account in a more careful administration of the affairs of each separate organization for a sort of family housecleaning.

In the state association, where laws for registration are already in force, the manner in which they are being administered should be carefully studied. The state association that has secured the passage of a law must never for an instant relinquish its right of protest if it finds that political or commercial interests are interfering with its highest and best execution.

Now is the time for a thorough going over of rules and by-laws and of forming new plans that shall be of benefit to those states less fortunate than themselves.

The personnel of the county and alumnae societies should be carefully reviewed. Women of doubtful conduct who may have been allowed to slip in under pressure of the excitement of outside interests should be investigated, disciplined, or dismissed. Only by maintaining a clean membership roll in the local associations can our state and national associations hope to steadily progress. This is a disagreeable duty which must periodically be performed for the preservation of our professional standards. For the sins or indiscretions of a few, the whole nursing body suffers, and the remedy lies with the organizations.

This period of quiescence is also a time when all the associations should devote some part of every meeting to strictly post-graduate study.

The suggestion made in these pages some months ago that the state examination questions be used as a competitive contest, after the order of the old time spelling matches, would freshen up the methods of many a nurse who has been too busy or indifferent to give much time to study, and would also prove an amusing entertainment for half an hour. Moreover, the practical value of the questions would be demonstrated in a way to make criticism of them by the associations of great help to the examiners.

Delegates to the national and state associations should be chosen early in the year and instructed in subjects of business or professional discussion that are likely to arise. The Associated Alumnæ is beginning early on its program and asks in this number of the JOURNAL for suggestions. If each affiliated association would send to the chairman of the Program Committee one suggestion, the subjects to be considered would represent broader interests.

Closer conference of the superintendents of nurses in the large centres and a teachers' auxiliary in every state society would give much force to educational progress.

All of these suggestions are taken from work already being done, and we do not offer them as original, but of such practical value that their adoption is recommended.

We have always advocated a broad division of executive responsibility in all organization life. With a monopoly of office, interest dwindles, and personal dictation creeps in. No one group of women and no one section of the country should be permitted to rule for too long a time, even when such groups are the willing workers of the association.

Popular subjects such as local option, suffrage, the Emanuel Church movement, tuberculosis, venereal prophylaxis, and school nursing, which appeal to nurses as citizens should at this time, more than ever before, have a place in the winter's program.

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#### THE END OF A YEAR

WITH this issue the JOURNAL closes its eighth volume and enters upon the coming year practically the property of the Associated Alumnæ. Professionally, the JOURNAL has never been in such splendid condition as at this time. Its influence is broader, it is in closer touch with many more lines of work, the support of the profession is more cordially expressed, and its subscription list is larger.

We have assurance that our efforts in behalf of the Red Cross are bringing very material results to that society in more general enrollment